

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 AGR-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10

TRSE-00 SCI-06 OMB-01 BNDE-00 RSR-01 /158 W

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R 262309 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6666

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4624

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL

REF: MEXICO 4434

1. DCM AND JOSPEH ARPAIO CALLED ON ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA TODAY TO INTRODUCE DEA CHIEF- DESIGNATE THOMAS DEAN. DURING MEETING, WHICH LASTED HOUR AND A HALF, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TOM DEAN GOT ACQUAINTED, AG CANDIDLY PRESENTED " RULES OF GAME" OF COOPERATIVE ANTI- DRUG EFFORT WITHIN MEXICO, DISCUSSED STATUS PROGRAM AND FUTURE PLANS, ETC. TOWARD END OF MEETING AG INVITED IN DEPUTY AG ROSALES MIRANDA AND LIC. NARVAEZ, HIS TWO TOP AIDES WHO DEAN COULD CONTACT AT MOMENT' S NOTICE WHEN UNABLE TO REACH AG ON IMPORTANT DRUG MATTERS.

2. AG REITERATED STRONG GOM SUPPORT FOR JOINT ANTI- DRUG EFFORT. HE SAID HIS POLICY WAS TO BE VERY FRANK AND TO THE POINT IN ALL DEALINGS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TOM DEAN WOULD DO LIKEWISE. AG DESCRIBED HIS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY IN MEXICO FOR ALL CRIMINAL DRUG RELATED MATTERS, POINTING OUT HIS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH FINANCE SECRETARY LOPEZ PORTILLO ( HIS COMPADRE), UNDER SECRETARY ENRIQUE CARDENAS, SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DR. JIMENEZ CANTU, AND DR. GUIDO BELSASSO, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CENTER FOR DRUG

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DEPENDENCY RESEARCH, ALL OF WHOM HE SAID WERE FULLY AWARE OF HIS AUTHORITY IN DRUG MATTERS AND COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH HIM. HE ADDED THAT AS CENTRAL COORDINATOR HE ACTED AS CONDUIT AND NOT STOPPER FOR DRUG PROGRAM. AS SUCH HE ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY WEAKNESSES OR FAILURES OF DRUG PROGRAM AS WELL AS CREDIT FOR SUCCESSES. AG POINTED OUT TO TOM DEAN POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF OPERATIONS OF POLICE AGENTS OF ONE COUNTRY WITHIN TERRITORY OF ANOTHER WHICH MADE IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT DEA ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO BE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH AG. THIS WAS CARDINAL RULE OF GAME. DEAN UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM AND CONCURRED.

3. AG THEN DISCUSSED ENTHUSIASTICALLY THIS YEAR'S NEW APPROACH TO OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION PROGRAM MENTIONED REFTEL. HE SAID THAT THROUGH USE OF AIRCRAFT AND ESPECIALLY CAMPESINO INFORMANTS IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS OF KEY DRUG GROWING STATES OF SINALOA, DURANGO, AND CHIHUAHUA, HE HAD ALREADY LOCATED 700 POPPY BEDS IN EARLY STAGES OF GROWTH BEING READIED FOR LATER PLANTING IN LARGER FIELDS. HE ADDED THAT HIS HELICOPTERS AND FIXED- WING AIRCRAFT WERE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY TO ERADICATE THESE 700 BEDS, AND THAT ACTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN TO LOCATE OWNERS AND START PROCEEDINGS TO CONFISCATE LANDS. THIS EARLY APPROACH TO ERADICATION WOULD REQUIRE SEVERAL MORE VISITS TO SAME AREAS OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS BUT HE WAS CONVINCED THIS ACTION WOULD PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF SECONDARY PLANTINGS TO BE DESTROYED LATER.

4. AG DISCUSSED RECENT RAIDS IN MAGDELENA, SONORA, IN WHICH HE USED AGENTS FROM POINTS NORTH AND WEST OF THAT CITY AND MOBILIZED SOME 33 TROOPS FROM HERMOSILLO. ALTHOUGH CONTRABAND VEHICLES AND DRUGS WERE LOCATED AND A NUMBER OF ARRESTS MADE, SOME OF THE SUSPECTED STORAGE PLACES WERE FOUND EMPTY AND SOME OF THE PRINCIPALS ( ESPECIALLY ONE " PERICO" TERAN) ESCAPED THE DRAGNET. HE SAID THEY HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN FOREWARNED.

MCBRIDE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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